

REMARKS

In the August 12, 2004 Office Action, claims 1-6 and 11-14 stand rejected in view of prior art, while claims 7-10 and 15-17 were allowed. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 7-10 and 15-17. Claims 1-6 and 11-14 are cancelled without prejudice. Applicants plan to file a continuing application to pursue these claims. Thus, claims 7-10 and 15-17 are pending, with claims 7, 8 and 15 being the only independent claims.

Specification

Applicants have amended the specification to correct typographical errors. Applicants believe that the specification complies with 37 CFR §1.71 and 37 CFR §1.75(d)(1).

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, claims 1, 4 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication No. 9-213672 to Hamano. Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 4 and 11 making this rejection moot.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

In paragraph 7 of the Office Action, claims 2, 3, 5, 6 and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamano in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,685,086 to Ferrell. Applicants have cancelled claims 2, 3, 5, 6 and 12-14 making this rejection moot.

Allowable Subject Matter


In paragraph 9 of the Office Action, claims 7-10 and 15-17 were indicated as allowed. Thus, all pending claims are believed to be allowed.

Appl. No. 09/889,484
Amendment dated January 27, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 12, 2004

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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